

Announcement of a public meeting and an effort to restore water quality in the North Fork Holston River in Smyth County, Virginia.

PUBLIC MEETING LOCATION: The meetings will be held at Friend's Community Church 145 Palmer Ave. Saltville, Virginia on January 25, 2010 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and at Hilton Elementary School 303 Academy Rd. Hiltons, Virginia on January 26, 2010. In case of inclement weather the snow dates will be February 8, 2010 at Friend's Community Church in Saltville, Virginia and February 11, 2010 at Hilton Elementary School in Hiltons, Virginia.

PURPOSE OF NOTICE: To seek public comment and announce a public meeting on a water quality improvement study by the Virginia Department of Environmental quality and the Department of Conservation and Recreation for the North Fork Holston River.

MEETING DESCRIPTION: Final public meeting on a study to restore water quality.

DESCRIPTION OF STUDY: DEQ has identified sources of Mercury contamination in fish in the waters of the North Fork Holston. The "impaired" stream segments total approximately 81 miles. The stream is impaired based on exceedences of the screening value for Mercury in fish tissue.

During the study, the sources of the Mercury contamination have been identified and total maximum daily loads, or TMDLs, developed for the impaired waters. A TMDL is the

total amount of a pollutant a water body can contain and still meet water quality standards. To restore water quality, contamination levels must be reduced to the TMDL amount.

HOW A DECISION IS MADE: The development of a TMDL includes public meetings and a public comment period for the draft study report. After public comments have been considered and addressed, DEQ will submit the TMDL report to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for approval.

HOW TO COMMENT: DEQ accepts written comments by e-mail, fax or postal mail. Written comments should include the name, address and telephone number of the person commenting and be received by DEQ during the comment period, January 25, 2010 to March 1, 2010. DEQ also accepts written and oral comments at the public meeting announced in this notice.

TO REVIEW FACT SHEETS: Fact sheets are available on the impaired waters from the contacts below or on the DEQ web site at www.deq.virginia.gov/tmdl.

CONTACT FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

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